

EA



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/076,256 | 02/13/2002 | Rick D. Pelfrey | 9513-0022 | 8584 |

7590 08/02/2005

Intellectual Property Group
Bose McKinney & Evans LLP
2700 First Indiana Plaza
135 North Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

EXAMINER

BOCHNA, DAVID

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

3679

DATE MAILED: 08/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

CA

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/076,256 | Applicant(s) PELFREY ET AL. | |
| | Examiner David E. Bochna | Art Unit 3679 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 15, 20, 21, 28-33, 36, 37, 39-50 and 52-59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 15, 20, 21, 28-33, 36, 37, 39-50 and 52-59 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 9 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

[Handwritten signature]

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims 2 and 4-8 are withdrawn in view of the newly applied reference(s) to Bielinski. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.
2. Claims 3 and 9-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
3. Claims 1, 15, 20-21, 28-33, 36-37, 39-50 and 52-59 are allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 2 and 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bielinski.

In regard to claim 2, Bielinski discloses a pneumatic coupling configured to couple a plurality of pneumatic lines (left line 16 to right line 16), the pneumatic coupling comprising a first housing (left 11) having at least one aperture 13 sized to receive a first pneumatic line (left line 16) of the plurality of the pneumatic lines,

a second housing (right 11) having at least one aperture 13 sized to receive a second pneumatic line (right 16) of the plurality of pneumatic lines, and a coupler 10 configured to couple the second housing to the first housing to couple the first and second pneumatic lines in fluid communication, the coupler including a link 25 pivotably coupled to the first housing and a

Art Unit: 3679

latch member 20 coupled to the link to pivot about a pivot axis extending through the link, the latch member being configured to couple the second housing 11 to the first housing 11.

In regard to claim 4, further comprising another coupler (coupler on right 11) configured to couple the first housing to the second housing to couple the first and second pneumatic lines in fluid communication and including a link 25 pivotably coupled to the second housing and a latch member 20 pivotably coupled to said link and configured to couple to the first housing to couple the first housing to the second housing.

In regard to claim 5, wherein the latch member is movable between an unlatched position and to an over-center position where it is urged to a latched position.

In regard to claims 6, 7 and 8, wherein the latch member is movable between first (fig. 2), second (when only hooks are connected and handles 26 are in the open position), and third positions (when hooks are disconnected as seen in fig. 3), the first and second housings are coupled together and the first and second pneumatic lines are in fluid communication when the latch member is in the first position, the first and second housings are spaced apart and the first and second pneumatic lines are unsealed when the latch member is in the second position, the latch member restrains movement of the second housing relative to the first housing when in the second position, the latch member is spaced apart from the second housing when in the third position to permit unrestrained movement of the second housing relative to the first housing (see col. 2. lines 5-10 for a description of the second position).

Art Unit: 3679

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (571) 272-7078. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Bochna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David E. Bochna
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679